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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Uranium Mine near Bukhovo

PLACE
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. In 1949 or 1950, the Bulgarian Government conducted a geological survey of the grounds of the Convent of the Holy Angel (Svyatiy Angel), located in a mountainous region about a half hour's walk from Bukhovo N 42-46, E 23-337. This survey disclosed that the convent grounds contained a rich deposit of good grade uranium ore.

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as a result of this finding, the inhabitants of Bukhovo, especially those of the convent, were told to move to other locations. Although the site of the uranium deposit was on the convent grounds, the entire area, including Bukhovo, was restricted.

2. the mine was being operated and exploited exclusively by the military.

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The fact that exploitation of the mine was being conducted by the Bulgarian Army provided for the maintenance of better security measures than if civilian personnel were employed. Secondly, it provided for the best type of labor and operating conditions, insofar as the government was concerned, since the labor force was composed of Bulgarian soldiers who received no pay.

3. Working conditions were bad from the soldiers' point of view. They worked long hours, at least ten hours a day, seven days a week, and

USAF review completed.

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many of them contracted tuberculosis, a fact which necessitated frequent rotation of personnel. Men rarely remained at the mine more than a year.

4. [redacted] it is most likely that the soldiers were billeted in newly-constructed barracks at the site of the mine in Bukhovo or possibly close by.

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5. [redacted] There had been no rail lines between the town of Bukhovo and the convent prior to discovery of the deposit, and, because of the mountainous terrain, [redacted] the ore was transported by truck from the mine to the railhead in Bukhovo and that it was destined for the USSR.

6. [redacted] location of uranium mine/

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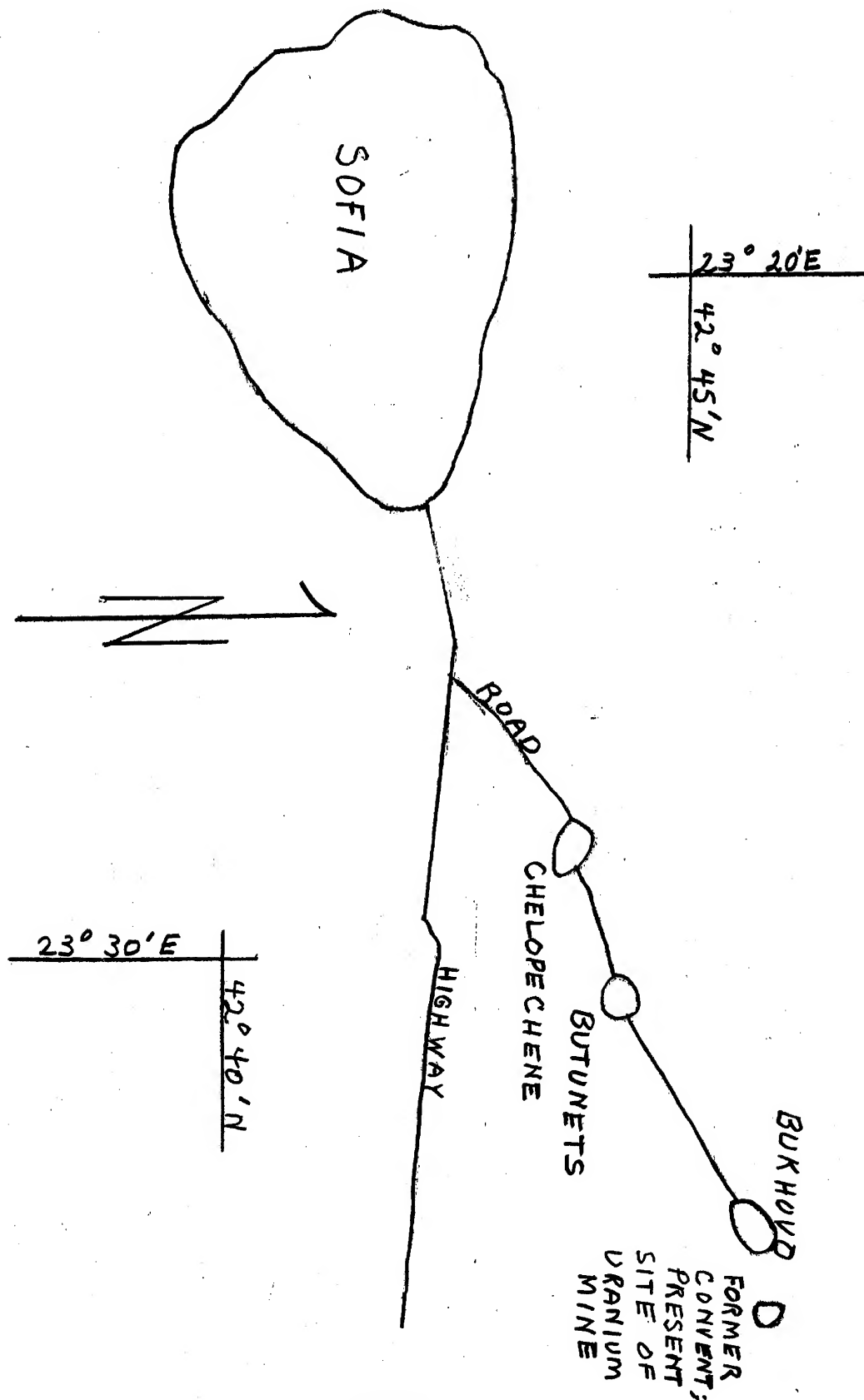
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Location of Uranium Mine: Overlay of an old German map of Sofia,

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